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The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method of fabricating an electrochemical device component structure, the method comprising:

applying a layer of a protective interlayer precursor ~~material~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~active metal nitrides, active metal phosphides, active metal halides, non-active~~ metal nitrides, ~~non-active~~ metal phosphides, ~~non-active~~ metal halides, red phosphorus, amines, phosphines, borazine ($B_3N_3H_6$), and triazine ($C_3N_3H_3$) on a polymer electrolyte; and

applying an active metal selected from the group consisting of alkali metals, alkaline earth metals and alloys thereof to the layer of ~~the material~~ precursor on the polymer electrolyte;

whereby the precursor is converted to ~~active metal nitride, active metal phosphide or active metal halide material, or~~ a reaction product formed by contact of the active metal with the precursor ~~non-active metal nitride, non-active metal phosphide, non-active metal halide, red phosphorus, amine, phosphine, borazine ($B_3N_3H_6$) or triazine ($C_3N_3H_3$) provides~~ such that a protective interlayer conductive to ions of the active metal is formed *in situ* between the active metal and the polymer electrolyte.

15-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the active metal comprises an anode~~, and further comprising applying a current collector on a surface of the active metal anode opposite that in contact with the protective interlayer~~.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~14~~, further comprising applying a current collector on a surface of the active metal anode opposite that in contact with the protective interlayer ~~wherein the active metal of the anode is selected from the group consisting of alkali metals, alkaline earth metals and alloys thereof~~.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the active metal ~~of the anode~~ is an alkali metal or alloy thereof.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the active metal ~~of the anode~~ is lithium or a lithium alloy.

21-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 ~~22~~, wherein the precursor ~~material applied to the polymer electrolyte~~ is red phosphorus, the active metal is lithium, and the protective interlayer formed *in situ* on reaction with the active metal is Li_3P.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the precursor ~~material applied to the polymer electrolyte~~ and active metal are applied by evaporation.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 ~~22~~, wherein the precursor ~~material applied to the polymer electrolyte~~ is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ a metal nitride ~~nitrides~~.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the precursor ~~material applied to the polymer electrolyte~~ is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ Cu_3N, the active metal is lithium, and the protective interlayer formed *in situ* on reaction with the active metal is Li_3N ~~SnNx, and SiNx~~.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 ~~26~~, wherein the precursor ~~material applied to the polymer electrolyte~~ is PbI_2, the active metal is lithium, and the protective interlayer formed *in situ* on reaction with the active metal is LiI ~~Cu_3N applied by evaporating copper in a nitrogen plasma and the active metal is applied by evaporation~~.

28-36. (canceled)

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